

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

04-540

Orleans

EAS.1330

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): North Eastham

Photograph



Address: 525 Steele Road

Historic Name: Raymond and Verena Daley House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1934-1937]

Source: Eastham Tax Commitment Books, 1937
subdivision plan

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Rear ell and garage additions (late-20th c.)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.40 acres

Setting: This property predates but is surrounded by a 1937 subdivision of small cottage lots on the south side of the road leading to Cooks Brook Beach. This parcel slopes up from the street and the house is set at the apex of that rise. An asphalt driveway leads to an attached garage southeast of the house. The parcel is left largely open in front of the house with lawn and a few trees.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

525 STEELE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Raymond and Verena Daley House, built in ca. 1934-37, consists of a 1½-story, side-gable main block, with a one-story gable-roofed rear addition that connects to a broad, two-bay, side-gable garage. The main block rests on a highly raised concrete foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and the roof of the main block has projecting, open eaves (typical of early cottage construction). The house has more windows around the northwest corner of the house where there is a view towards Cooks Brook Beach. Windows appear to be modern, thermal, 1/1 replacements. There is a large deck on the front elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

This road, without any buildings, is shown on the 1910 Barnstable County Atlas. The road was initially called Cook's Brook Road, but was later named for William Bradford Steele (1855-1951), a native of Harwich who, according to later deeds, laid out the road himself as a private way until at least 1925. Steele, whose younger brother was South Eastham undertaker James B. Steele, had acquired the former Parker and Rachel Brown House at 1285 Massasoit Road (EAS.86) from the town in 1897 along with fifteen adjacent acres. He appears to have been an early developer of summer cottages near Cooks Brook Beach. In 1913, Steele sold what his deed termed "cottage lot #7," laid out by Steele, on the road leading by his own house to the bay. He sold three more cottage lots, each with sixty-five feet of frontage on the road, in 1921 and 1922.

Deed research is unclear, but it is possible that this parcel was part of a two-acre sale of land from William Steele to Chester Pierce.¹ Title research definitively traces back to three deeds between 1932 and 1937 where Jessie and Chester E. Pierce sold land on the south side of Steele Road to Raymond L. and Verena R. Daley of Menon in Worcester County.²

According to Eastham Tax Commitment Books, the Daleys were first taxed for a cottage in 1934, and both this house and 505 Steele Road (EAS.1329) are shown on a plan recorded by Jessie Pierce in May, 1937 entitled Subdivision of Land at Silver Springs Beach (Figure 1).

¹ Barnstable County Register of Deeds, Book 390/ Page 23.

² Book 484/ Page 556, Book 507/ Page 81, Book 533/ Page 213.

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Raymond Leroy Daley (1892-1972) married Verena Ruby Springer (1895-1990) in Milford in 1916. As of the 1920 census, they were renting in Mendon where he was working in the soda industry and she was a school teacher. By 1930, they owned a home in Mendon, he was now a production manager for a beverage company, and she was working as a service director for an electric light company. Sometime between 1935 and 1940, they moved to Eastham. In the 1950 census, they were living here in Eastham, and the occupation of both Raymond and Verena was listed as "helping build son's house." They had two sons, Rager and Randall, and two daughters, Judith and Pamela.

In 1971, the Daleys conveyed this cottage to their daughter, Dorcas Mary Gill for \$1.³ Dorcas Daley (1923-2018) married Merton Everett Gill (1924-1993) in Mendon in 1944. They were living in Eastham as of the 1950 census, where he was listed working as a garage mechanic, and she was listed as a paper hanger and painter in the housing industry. In 2019, after Dorcas Gill's death in 2018, her estate conveyed this cottage to their two daughters, Judith A. Westergaard of Brewster and Pamela J. Herman of Eastham. That same year, Judith sold it outright to her sister and her husband, Mark D. Herman of Eastham, who continue to own it.⁴

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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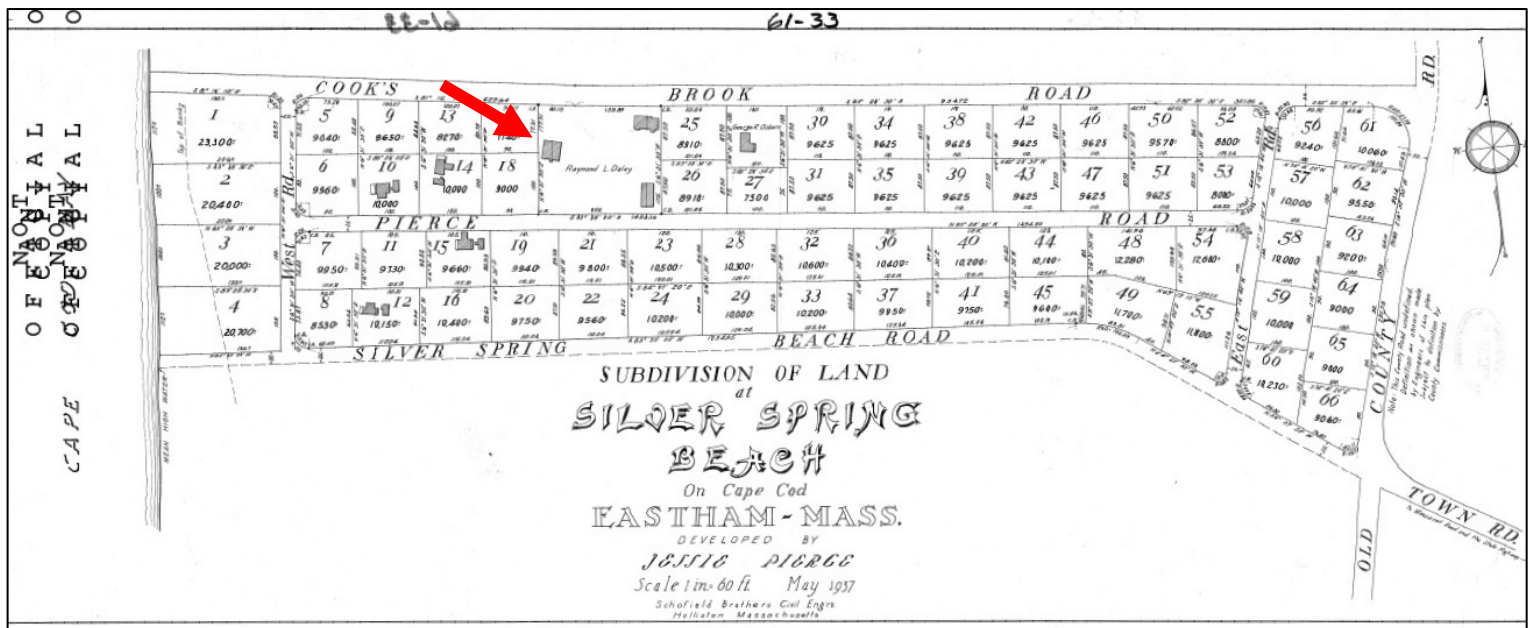


Figure 1. Subdivision of Land at Silver Spring Beach, prepared for Jessie Pierce, May 1937 (arrow to 525 Steele Road added).

³ Book 1530/ Page 92.

⁴ Book 31892/ Page 170, Book 32212/ page 241.

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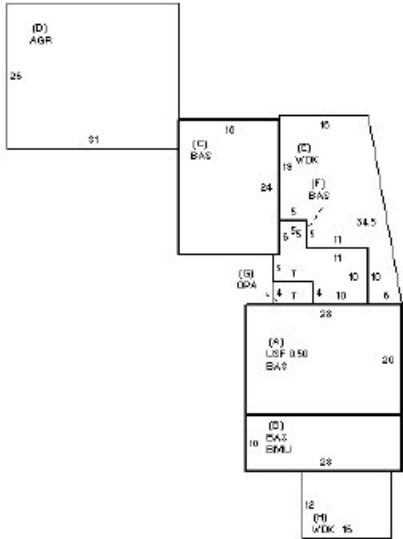


Figure 2. Assessor Sketch Map.



Photo 2. View looking southwest.